

NORTH KOREAN TERRITORIAL SEA CLAIMS

In statements relative to the capture of the Pueblo, North Korea has claimed jurisdiction over coastal waters extending twelve nautical miles. Research has been undertaken by CIA and also by State Department on the North Korean claims to determine the methodology employed by the North Koreans in projecting their claimed territorial sea limits. To date, no specific governmental decree has been found on the subject.



Shown on the accompanying US Hydrographic Office chart by a solid blue line is the 12 mile offshore sovereignty claimed by North Korea. It represents the ocean area encompassed by use of the normal baseline method measured from the low-waterline along the coast. In two instances the straight baseline method, which permits the simulation of a coastline seaward from a line drawn to connect headlands of water bodies indenting

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the mainland, is used (this is permissible under the agreements reached by the Conference at the Law of the Sea Convention in Geneva, 1958.) In two other places on the chart, the solid blue line terminates and is continued as a dotted line within a red arc. The dotted blue line represents continuation of the 12 mile offshore claim based on the normal baseline, while the red arc depicts the extended 12 mile limit, based on the offshore islands from which the red line has been projected.

Although the first communist nation (the Soviet Union) to extend its claim to 12 miles did so in 1927, the date of North Korea's initial claim to 12 mile sovereignty is not clear. A State Department Geographic Bulletin of April 1965 lists both South and North Korea as claiming 12 miles as the breadth of the territorial sea.

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The attached was shown to William Woodruff, of the Senate Appropriations Committee, along with map pertaining to same subject as the memo. Copies of memo and map were not left with Mr. Woodruff.